



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (2013/14)

CONISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

'WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN SUCCEED'

The Governing Body's roles and responsibilities fall into three key areas:

- strategic direction: setting aims for the school; agreeing policies, plans and targets for improvement to match those aims; monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies
- critical friend: asking relevant but probing questions in a supportive, honest and trusting manner; monitoring the impact of the policies and plans
- accountability: holding the headteacher and staff to account for the performance of the school; to the parents and others for the work of the Governing Body in deciding the strategic direction of the school; setting the terms of reference for those individuals, committees and working parties to which the Governing Body delegates tasks.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Coniston Primary School was reconstituted in January 2014 and is now made up of 2 staff governors (including the headteacher), 4 parent governors, 1 Local Authority governor and 4 co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills required to contribute to effective governance and success of the school.

The full Governing Body met 5 times during the year and the two committees (Curriculum & Staffing and Finance & Resources) each met 4 times during the year. In addition we have a Pay & Performance Committee which met once.

Attendance at meetings was good and we never cancelled a meeting because it was not quorate (the number of governors needed to ensure that decisions can be made).

The work that we have done

As always the Governing Body has had a busy year focussing upon school improvement and an impending OfSTED inspection which is due in the early part of the academic year 2014/15. In a recent Local Authority inspection the Governing Body was deemed to be strong.

At several full Governing Body meetings we have had 30-minute presentations on new developments/initiatives to enable governors to keep-up-to date. Topics during the year focussed upon school data dashboard; the new primary curriculum; the power of reading and defining success. At every curriculum committee meeting we had an input from a member of the senior leadership team keeping us up-to-date on progress and developments within literacy, numeracy and early years. Governors have also taken advantage of training courses provided by the Local Authority.

Important areas for discussion at meetings during the year have been on data giving the outcomes of pupil achievement and progress, how pupil premium money was being spent and what impact this has had on pupil outcomes, improvements to the school buildings and environment, e-safety, attendance and staff appraisal.

During the year, governors visited the school on a number of occasions in their monitoring capacity. Each governor has a 'watching brief' and they met with the member of staff responsible for the area 2 or 3 times during the year. The 'watching brief' areas were literacy, numeracy, pupil progress, early years, computing, health and safety, pupil premium, safeguarding and special educational needs (SEN) including the gifted and talented. In addition, all governors joined a 'learning walk' with the headteacher and deputy headteacher (where they toured the school looking at evidence for a particular focus) and also joined a pupil conferencing session which was led by the headteacher (pupils were asked questions on a range of subjects including their progress, how teachers support them, behaviour and safety).

Future Plans for the governors

During the next academic year we shall be introducing governor-led pupil conferencing sessions and devising a questionnaire for parents and carers to complete. This will help us gather information about how well the school is doing through your 'eyes'.

We believe that the school should be a pleasant environment in which pupils and staff can work. With this in mind, during the coming academic year, we shall be refurbishing the Y5 classroom, toilets and cloakroom; refurbishing the intervention room; and, hopefully, refurbishing the Y6 classroom.

How you can contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers...please contact the Chair, Mike Lloyd, via the school office.

Other information about the Governing Body can be found on the governor notice board (situated in the school entrance lobby) and on the school website.

24 October 2014